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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/913,327	08/13/2001	Yukio Yasuda		7080

			EXAMINER
20277	7590	11/10/2005	HUNTSINGER, PETER K

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WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3096

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/913,327	YASUDA, YUKIO
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Peter K. Huntsinger	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 August 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-6* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   The amendment filled on 19 August 2005 has been entered in full.

2.   In response to the amendments, the objections to claims 1, 5, and 6 have been dropped.

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments filed 19 August 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues on pages 6 and 7 of the response that:

Isobe et al. does not teach that creation of separate plate data is shared between a plurality of unit controllers:

4.   The examiner respectfully disagrees. Separate plate data is interpreted as separate printing output data as specified in applicant's specification. Isobe et al. disclose separated the image data into respective colors with interface 210 (col. 20, lines 28-34). The print controllers 208K, 208Y, 208M, and 208C receive the separated image data and control the print heads to create the separate plate data (col. 19, lines 19-33). Therefore, the creation of separate plate data is shared between a plurality of controllers.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6.   Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Isobe et al. U.S. Patent 6,078,346, Yamaguchi et al. U.S. Patent 6,094,276, and

Stapleford U.S. Patent 3,579,197.

Referring to claim 1, Isobe et al. disclose a printing system performing printing on

the basis of digital data, comprising: a plurality of unit controllers (print controllers 208Y,

209M, 209C, and 209K of Fig. 16, col. 19, lines 19-33); and a controller totally

managing said plurality of unit controllers (controller 201 of Fig. 16, col. 19, lines 17-24),

wherein said controller has command means commanding a process of creating a

plurality of separate plate data is shared between the plurality of unit controllers, said

plurality of separate plate data being created by separating digital data of objective

printed matter into a plurality of color components (col. 20, lines 28-34), and each of

said plurality of unit controllers has separate plate data creation means creating at least

one separate plate data among said plurality of separate plate data from the digital data

of said objective matter to be printed on the basis of the command by said command

means (col. 19, lines 24-33). Isobe et al. does not disclose expressly the controller

commanding the unit controllers to be a server controller. Yamaguchi et al. disclose a

server controller (server controller 221 of Fig. 4, col. 3-4, lines 60-67, 1-2). Isobe et al.

and Yamaguchi et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of printing

systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of

ordinary skill in the art to combine the functions of the controller of Isobe et al. with the

server controller functions of Yamaguchi et al. The motivation for doing so would have

been to allow the added functions of a server controller to the abilities of the controller

such as managing a server. Isobe et al. and Yamaguchi et al. do not disclose expressly

the color separation being preformed by a plurality of unit controllers. Stapleford

discloses a format for a main controller connected to three sub controllers (Fig. 1).

Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al., and Stapleford are combinable because they are from the

same field of controller systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been

obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to interchange the controller 201 and

interface 210 of Isobe et al. with the controller and sub controller formation of

Stapleford. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a main controller

for management of the operations of other controllers. Further, the generic controller

format of Stapleford is simply exchanged with the format of Isobe et al. Isobe et al. do

not disclose expressly rasterizing the separate plate data with the unit controllers.

Official Notice is taken that it would have been well known and obvious in the art to

rasterize data before printing (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would

have been to format the print data into a suitable format for the printer.

Referring to claim 2, Isobe et al. disclose the printing system according to claim

1, further comprising: a plurality of printing units corresponding to said plurality of unit

controllers respectively (LED head 152 of Fig. 14, col. 17, lines 22-37) (thermal head 36

of Fig. 14, col. 18, lines 22-26), wherein each of said plurality of unit controllers

transfers, with respect to the corresponding printing unit, at least one separate plate

data whose printing output is taken charge of in said printing unit (col. 19, lines 19-33).

Referring to claim 3, Isobe et al. disclose the printing system according to claim

2, wherein said server controller has separate plate data storage means storing said

plurality of separate plate data created in said plurality of unit controllers (memories

209K, 209Y, 209M, and 209C of Fig. 16, col. 19, lines 19-27), and each of said unit

controllers transfers the separate plate data stored in said separate plate data storage

means of said server controller to said printing unit provided in correspondence to each

unit controller (col. 19, lines 19-33). Isobe et al. do not disclose expressly the storage

means located within the controller. It would have been obvious to place the storage

means within the controller. The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce the

distance from the controller and the memory so as to provide a faster access time.

Referring to claim 4, Yamaguchi et al. disclose the printing system according to

claim 3, wherein said server controller has monitoring means monitoring work contents

of each of said plurality of unit controllers (col. 3-4, lines 60-67, 1-4).

Referring to claim 5, Isobe et al. disclose a controller in a printing system

performing printing on the basis of digital data, comprising: command generation means

generating a command to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data

is shared between the plurality of unit controllers, said plurality of separate plate data

being created by separating digital data of objective matter to be printed into a plurality

of color components (col. 20, lines 28-34); and transmission means transmitting said

command to said plurality of unit controllers (col. 19, lines, 24-33). Isobe et al. does not

disclose expressly the controller commanding the unit controllers to be a server

controller. Yamaguchi et al. disclose a server controller (server controller 221 of Fig. 4,

col. 3-4, lines 60-67, 1-2). Isobe et al. and Yamaguchi et al. are combinable because

they are from the same field of printing systems. At the time of the invention, it would

have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the functions of the

controller of Isobe et al. with the server controller functions of Yamaguchi et al. The

motivation for doing so would have been to allow the added functions of a server

controller to the abilities of the controller such as managing a server. Isobe et al. and

Yamaguchi et al. do not disclose expressly the color separation being preformed by a

plurality of unit controllers. Stapleford discloses a format for a main controller

connected to three sub controllers (Fig. 1). Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al., and

Stapleford are combinable because they are from the same field of controller systems.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in

the art to interchange the controller 201 and interface 210 of Isobe et al. with the

controller and sub controller formation of Stapleford. The motivation for doing so would

have been to provide a main controller for management of the operations of other

controllers. Further, the generic controller format of Stapleford is simply exchanged with

the format of Isobe et al. Isobe et al. do not disclose expressly rasterizing the separate

plate data with the unit controllers. Official Notice is taken that it would have been well

known and obvious in the art to rasterize data before printing (See MPEP 2144.03).

The motivation for doing so would have been to format the print data into a suitable format for the printer.

7.   Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isobe et al. U.S. Patent 6,078,346 and Stapleford U.S. Patent 3,579,197.

Isobe et al. disclose a unit controller in a printing system performing printing on the basis of digital data, comprising: acceptance means accepting a command signal (col. 19, lines 24-33); and separate plate data creation means creating at least one separate plate data to be taken charge of in said unit controller among a plurality of separate plate data created by performing separation into a plurality of color components on the basis of digital data of matter to be printed in response to said command signal (col. 19, lines 19-33). Isobe et al. do not disclose expressly the color separation being preformed by a plurality of unit controllers. Stapleford discloses a format for a main controller connected to three sub controllers. Isobe et al. and Stapleford are combinable because they are from the same field of controller systems. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to interchange the controller 201 and interface 210 of Isobe et al. with the controller and sub controller formation of Stapleford (Fig. 1). The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a main controller for management of the operations of other controllers. Further, the generic controller format of Stapleford is simply exchanged with the format of Isobe et al. Isobe et al. do not disclose expressly rasterizing the separate plate data with the unit controllers. Official Notice is taken that

it would have been well known and obvious in the art to rasterize data before printing (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to format the print data into a suitable format for the printer.

Conclusion

8.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter K. Huntsinger whose telephone number is (571)272-7435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.
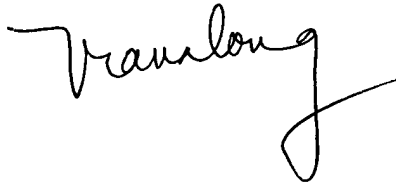
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PKH

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER